ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Commonly confused words

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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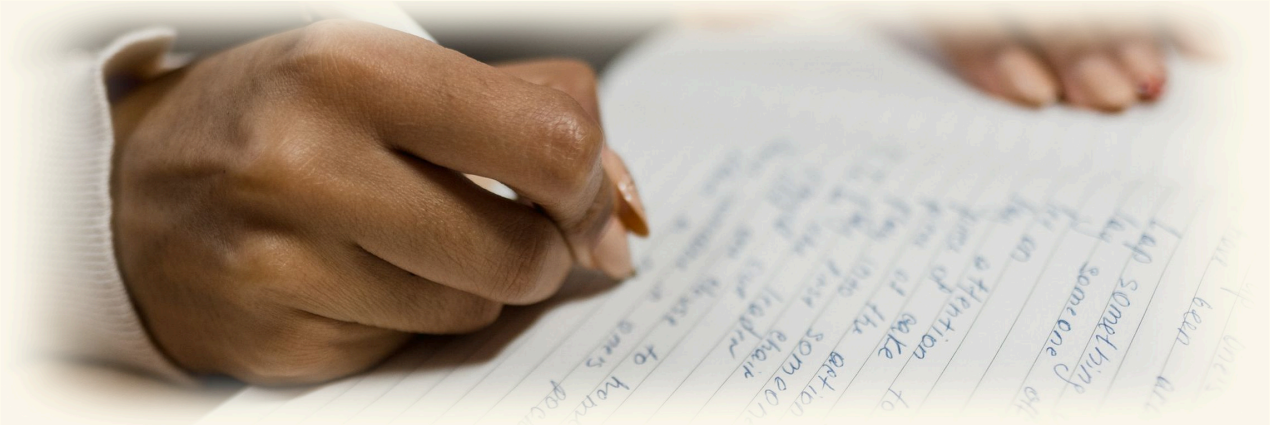
Overview of the concept

This is how you stop mixing up words that sound alike but mean different things. Their, there, and they're are the classic example, and using the wrong one makes your writing say something you did not mean. Knowing the difference is a small piece of knowledge that shows up in almost everything you write.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Choose: ___ going to the park. (they are)

SOLUTION

The meaning needed is 'they are'.

The contraction of 'they are' is 'they're'.

So: They're going to the park.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Choose: The book is over ___. (in that place)

SOLUTION

The meaning needed is a place.

The place word is 'there'.

So: The book is over there.

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Practice questions

1 Choose: ___ dog is barking. (belonging to them)

- A There
- B Their
- C They're

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2 Choose: I saw ___ book on the table. (belonging to you)

- A you're
- B your

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3

Choose: ___ the best team. (they are)

A Their

B There

C They're

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4

Choose: Put it over ___. (place)

A there

B their

C they're

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5

'They're' is short for which two words?

A They are

B Their are

C There are

D They is

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6

'You're' is short for which two words?

A Your are

B You are

C Yours are

D You is

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7 **In the sentence 'Their house is big', what does 'their' mean?**

A They are

B Belonging to them

C In that place

D You are

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8 **In the sentence 'There are many birds here', what does 'there' mean?**

A Belonging to them

B They are

C In that place

D You are

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9

Fix the mistake in this sentence: 'There going to win the game.'

A Their

B They're

C There (no mistake)

D Theirs

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10

Which sentence is correct?

A They're house is big.

B Their going home now.

C They're ready to go.

D There ready to go.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Their

2. your

3. They're

4. there

5. They are

6. You are

7. Belonging to them

8. In that place

9. They're

10. They're ready to go.

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